

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 – 4, 11 – 18 and 20 – 22 so that the claims read as presented below.

1 – 4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method performed by a first computer entity in a peer to peer network, said method comprising:

determining a local policy for management of a second computer entity in said peer to peer network;
receiving, from a third computer entity in said peer to peer network, a message describing a policy
determined by said third computer entity for management of said second computer entity; and
determining from said policy determined by said third computer entity, and from said local policy, a
network management policy to be applied by said first computer entity to said second computer
entity.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

broadcasting said network management policy to a plurality of peer computers within said peer to peer
network.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, comprising:

monitoring said second computer entity; and
depending upon a result of said monitoring, adopting a pre-determined policy from a stored set of policies,
and applying said pre-determined policy to said second computer entity.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a said network management policy
comprises a policy selected from the group consisting of:

a policy for determining whether or not to place said second computer entity into quarantine;
a policy for generating a virus alert message for alerting other computer entities in the peer to peer
network that a said second computer entity has a virus;
a policy for generating a fault alert message for alerting other computer entities in the peer to peer network
that said second computer entity is faulty;
a policy determining whether to exclude said second computer entity from accessing a particular type of
resource;
a policy for determining whether to exclude said second computer entity from the peer to peer network;
a policy for control of access by said second computer entity to a communal resource; and

a charging policy for charging said second computer entity for accessing a resource.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, comprising applying a monitoring operation to said second computer entity, wherein said monitoring operation is selected from the group consisting of:

a monitoring operation for remote virus scanning of said second computer;

a monitoring operation for observing a group behavior of a group of target computer entities within said peer to peer network;

a monitoring operation for detecting a security breach in said peer to peer network;

a monitoring operation for detecting a performance problem of said second computer.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said determining said network management policy comprises:

applying a voting protocol in which said first and third computer entities vote, and thereby adopt a common policy for said network management policy.

11 – 18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said determining said network management policy includes considering whether said second computer entity allows said first computer entity to utilise a resource of said second computer entity.

20 – 22. (canceled)